

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Linda Matson, President

I grew up in a small town in rural Massachusetts. There wasn't much to do there, but every week my mom would herd the kids into our Country Squire station wagon and off to the library we would chug. We had to behave well during those library visits, because the librarian (yes, the librarian, there was only one) knew us all by name, and could rat us out to Mom if we got into any mischief. She was a pretty cool lady, though, and would tell Mom only if we committed some major infraction, like when someone locked our little brother in the janitor's closet.

The Nelson Library was housed in a beautiful, stately old New England home. Although it's not relevant to this story, that library burned to the ground one night in 1974. I can still remember standing at the front window of our house and being able to see the glow in the night sky from the fire, several miles away. Our town, quite literally, went into mourning — it was our local version of 9-11.

So, just what is the point of this story, you ask? Relax, I'm getting to it. My parents barely graduated high school and almost no one in my extended family had ever attempted college. We all attended public school. Yet, between my older sister and brother and I, we have accumulated a B.S. degree in Biology, two B.S.'s in Mechanical Engineering, a Master's in Business Administration, a Masters in Engineering, and a Juris Doctorate. Do you think that our academic success had anything to do with those weekly visits to the library during our developmental years? I sure do! The leg-up that all that extra reading practice gave me in grade school is the reason that I'm excited to serve on the Board of the Tempe Friends of the Library. I want to give back some of what I received.

How about you? You can pitch in, too. Donate your used books, CDs, DVDs and videotapes to the Friends by dropping them off at the Library or at one of the drop-

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ABOVE THE STACKS

By Teri Metros,
Library Administrator

Piper Trust Awards Grant for Tempe Connections Project

Thanks to a \$538,097 grant awarded to the City of Tempe by The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, the Tempe Public Library will be the site of a comprehensive one-stop resource to connect the baby boom generation and other young seniors with information services and programs they will need to remain informed, engaged, and happy community participants. These include continuing education, meaningful volunteer opportunities, and assistance with re-careering, wellness activities, and socialization. The Tempe

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off locations. Do some early holiday gift-shopping at our upcoming Fall Book Sale on Saturday, October 23rd. Invest in a raffle ticket at the Fall sale, and you might win a beautiful gift basket designed by Board Member Maria Purchase. Renew your membership with the Friends. Volunteer in our Book Corner by helping sort, price and stock the books.

From time to time, we need energetic folks to join our team of directors. If this interests you, drop us a message at (480) 350-5599 or at tempefriends@yahoo.com. The Board of Directors of the Friends welcomes our newest team member, Delores Kohl. We also welcome our new adjunct organization, the Teen Friends of the Tempe Public Library.

A closing caveat: The facts of my library story are recounted as I remember them and though they may not be 100% accurate, remember the old adage, "never spoil a good story for lack of facts." (I may or may not have locked Eddie in the closet; thirty-five years later, I'm still not saying.)

Fall Book Sale

The Friends invite you to join them for their fall book sale on Saturday, October 23rd in the Library's lower level Program Room. The sale will begin with a special members only sale from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The sale

will be open to the general public from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friends' memberships may be purchased at the door. The sale will feature a wide range of materials including children's books, compact disc recordings, and paperback and hardback fiction and non-fiction books at bargain prices ranging from 50 cents to \$20.00. Members of the Tempe Historical Society will also be on hand to sell merchandise at reduced prices from the Tempe Historical Museum Gift Shop including cards, jewelry, toys, and other gift items.

The newly formed Teen Friends of the Tempe Public Library (see related article, page 5) will have delectable goodies for sale at their fundraising Bake Sale in conjunction with the Friends Fall Book Sale. Bring your sweet tooth and buy a treat for yourself or take something home for your friends and neighbors.

Community members who wish to become a member of the

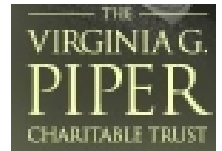


Friends may purchase a membership on the day of the sale or join by completing a membership application at the Library or via the Friends Web site at <http://community.tempe.gov/libraryfriends/>. The Friends Web site provides complete information on their activities in support of the Tempe Public Library and membership options.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our key fundraising events.

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Connections Center, which will occupy approximately 2000 square feet on the main floor of the library, will include the Connections Café coffee shop and program space for Connections activities. Tempe Connections services and programs will also be provided at the City's multigenerational centers.



The foundation for this successful grant application was the invaluable input provided by a thirteen-member citizen committee co-chaired by Bobbie Cassano and Diane Hughes. Among those serving on the committee were Friends Executive Board member Joseph Harris and Library Advisory Board members Gail Dick and Ira King. This dedicated and enthusiastic group met twice a month for six months beginning in January 2004. Representatives from the four divisions of the Community Services Department (Cultural Services, Library, Parks and Recreation, and Social Services) were on hand to assist with the committee's work. The grant application also incorporated many recommendations from the 2002 *Tempe Task Force on Aging Report*.

Grant funds will be available over a three year period. During the first year of the grant, the Tempe Connections Center will be designed and constructed. Program delivery will begin in during the second year of the project and

will continue into the third year and beyond. The Café and Tempe Connections programming will be self-supporting and no additional City funds will be required.

Over two dozen community organizations and agencies lent their support for the grant including Friends of the Tempe Public Library, ASU Department of Continuing Education, ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Tempe Community Council, Tempe Adult Day Health Care, Tempe Community Action Agency, Arizona Women's Education & Employment, the Boys & Girls Club of the East Valley Ladmo Branch, Community Bridges, Thomas J. Pappas School, Alzheimer's Association, Maricopa Association of Governments, St. Joseph's Hospital, KAET Ready to Learn Initiative, Maricopa Community Colleges, Southwest Institute of Healing Arts, Tempe Union High School District, and the Tempe Chamber of Commerce.

The Library is very proud to be part of this exciting project that will bring a wonderful array of services to Tempe residents. In addition to our community partners, we are very grateful for the support of The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. The Piper Trust was established through the philanthropy of Virginia G. Piper, a long time Paradise Valley resident and widow of Paul V. Galvin, founder of Motorola. After her marriage to Kenneth M. Piper in 1969, she supported Arizona organizations committed to children, elderly, healthcare and

medical research, education, arts and culture, and religion. Following her death in 1999, the Trust continued Mrs. Piper's legacy by making grants to nonprofit organizations whose work enhances the lives of people in Maricopa County.

Read Your Way to the Ballpark Scores Again!

Thanks to the 2004 Summer Reading Program, our library was the "place to be" for Tempe children and teens this summer. Over 4,400 children participated in the *Read Your Way to the Ballpark* program. This program was provided through the support of the Arizona Republic, the Arizona Diamondbacks—and most importantly, with funding provided by the Friends. As a result of the Friends support, the final prize for each child who completed the program was a popular children's book of their choice. This was one of the most rewarding parts of the program for the Youth Library staff. It was great for us to see how excited and happy every child was at the time he or she selected their book.

The teen program, *Reading—Food for Thought*, was targeted to middle school and high school students and drew over 670 teens. In addition to the Friends, we had a number of great corporate sponsors for the teen program including Whole Foods Market

and Harkins Theatres. For every four hours of reading, teens earned a food related prize.

A key part of the Summer Reading Program was a number of special programs and events for children that were offered at the Library and the Escalante Community Center. Over 3,400 children attended the 36 programs held throughout the summer. The programs included a Harry Potter magic show, a presentation by the Phoenix zoo on desert creatures, a performance of the Great Arizona Puppet Theatre, and even a singing cowboy with his horse.

We want to extend our thanks to the Friends for their ongoing financial support of this worthwhile program, one that furthers the Library's goal of providing services to children that promote the value of reading in their lives.

Planning for Results Strategic Plan

Beginning in January of 2004, the Tempe Public Library initiated a community-based strategic planning process based upon the New Planning for Results model developed by the Public Library Association. Planning for Results is a streamlined process that has come to be accepted as the "standard" in planning for public library services.

The planning process was made possible through the support of the Library Development

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Division of the Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records Department. The State Library allocated federal Library Services and Technology Act funds to train a select group of Arizona librarians in the *New Planning for Results Method* who would serve as facilitators to assist libraries throughout the state with their planning processes. Tempe's planning process was facilitated by two very competent library administrators from the Tucson-Pima Public Library, Laura Thomas Sullivan and Bonny Bruce.

The Library assembled a team of community members to serve on the Planning Committee and participate in the planning process. Committee members were selected to reflect a wide variety of stakeholder interests in the Tempe community. Friends Executive Board member Joseph Harris was on the committee as were Library Advisory Board members Candyce Lindsay, Lisa Gudahl, and Stephen Lucking. During their meetings, the Planning Committee worked together to draft a community vision, analyzed Tempe's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and identified community needs. Based upon the identified needs, the Committee selected and prioritized five service responses from a list of thirteen possible responses as defined by the *New Planning for Results model*. The Committee selected the following service responses: Current Topics and Titles, Information Literacy,

Cultural Awareness, Lifelong Learning, and Basic Literacy.

Based upon that input, a group of Tempe Public Library staff members developed a new mission statement and goals and objectives that would respond to the service responses selected by the Planning Committee. The draft plan was approved by the Planning Committee in June. It was reviewed by the Library Board at their September meeting.

An effective planning process is particularly important during a time when rapidly changing information technologies and budget limitations are having a significant impact upon Tempe's public library operations. The plan resulting from this process will guide the Library in allocating its budget resources in the most effective manner to meet community information and recreational reading needs. Look for more information about the plan in the coming months.

Library Employee is Recognized for Outreach Services

Nicholas Escalante, the Library's Community Outreach Coordinator, has been awarded the Arizona Library Association's Outreach Services Award in recognition of his efforts in to reach out to unserved and minority populations in the Tempe community.

Nick joined our staff in September of 2000 to work in the Tempe Public Library Resource Center

located within the Escalante Multigenerational Center. Although Nick did not come to us with a background in library services, he turned out to be the perfect person to help us achieve this goal. In addition to being bilingual, Nick had the ability to connect on a personal basis with people of all ages. Most importantly, he knew the impact that books, libraries and reading could have on the direction of one's life. In his previous positions as a social worker serving at-risk youth in New Mexico, he had often included books and reading as a way to connect with troubled youth.

Nick began making an impact almost as soon as he arrived. He enthusiastically embraced the library's goal of promoting the love of books and reading in the community. After a brief orientation and training period designed to familiarize him with our library and its services, Nick began selling the TPL Learning Resource Center to the community. He did this by participating in community events, visiting local churches, and working with nearby schools and their teacher-librarians. He also made a point of introducing himself to community center users of all ages and letting them know what the Library could offer to them in the Learning Resource Center.

One of his first accomplishments was to initiate the Family Place Parent/Child Workshop at the Escalante Community Center. This five-week program for children, ages 1-3, and their caregivers provides a welcoming environ-

ment that promotes healthy child development, family literacy, and access to community services. Right from the beginning, this program proved to be very popular with parents and children. Although he was new to Arizona and to Tempe, Nick developed a wonderful network of community resource professionals who were willing to participate in the Family Place program. The children and adult caregivers who participate in the Escalante Family Place program come from a wide variety of cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. Nick makes every child and their caregiver feel valued and important and, as a result, they return to participate in this program and other Library-



sponsored programs at Escalante.

Nick has made a huge difference in the Tempe community by promoting literacy efforts, advocating for the library, and linking Escalante community residents with needed services. His ability to connect with children, teens, adults, and seniors has made the Tempe Public Library Learning Resource Center a wonderful educational and recreational community resource. We are delighted that his accomplishments have been recognized by

the Arizona library community. The award will be presented to him during the Arizona Library Association's annual conference in December.

Teen Friends Group Forms

**By Anna-Marie O'Brien,
Librarian**

After months of hard work and perseverance, we are pleased to announce the formation of the Teen Friends of the Tempe Public Library! The group, supervised as a joint effort between Youth and Adult services, has been meeting regularly since Spring of 2004 – even over the long summer break when you'd think teens would want some time off! What is even more amazing is that we have a group of excited, productive, and imaginative young adults working toward the common goal of making the library a better place for themselves, their peers, and future generations of teens to come. This includes advocating for more teen programming, a dedicated teen space, more age-appropriate materials and resources, and representation when it comes to library planning. Of course, money and funding are always an issue, but the Teen Friends have taken this in stride – not only have they been working with their parent organization, the Friends of the Tempe Public Library, to secure seed money, but they also held a wildly successful bake sale in July that raised over \$250! Currently, they are working



on the first issue of their newsletter, a new library website for teens, and are planning for Teen Read Week, the Friends Fall Book Sale, and a new peer tutoring program offered here in the library.

Members of the Teen Friends are a part of what is now termed the Millennial Generation. With numbers projected to reach 60-74 million in this country over the next few years, they are the biggest demographic wave since the Baby Boomers. So far, the Teen Friends of the Tempe Public Library are doing a great job representing their generation – they are pro-active, willing to work cooperatively, and are definitely on a mission to improve the library experience for all teens. They've surprised more than one adult in this library with their great attitude, and they deserve your support. Stay tuned for more announcements and activities from the Teen Friends of the Tempe Public Library!

Join the Friends!

Applications are available at the library or log-on to our website at:

<http://community.tempe.gov/libraryfriends>



3500 S. Rural Rd. Tempe, Arizona 85282

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Tempe, Arizona
Permit No. 144

Time to renew?

Check the expiration date on
your mailing label

SHOPPER DISCOUNT CARDS

Bashas' will send us a check for 1% of the total dollars attributed to our group through their "Thanks a Million for Friends and Neighbors" program. So the next time you shop at Bashas' just link our group ID number (23617) to your **Thank You Card**. (The cashier enters the code and the link remains for the duration of the program which runs from September 13, 2004 through March 31, 2005.) Just another way to help us help the Tempe Public Library.

We are working on links to Albertson's, Fry's, and Safeway discount cards. Watch our used book corner and web site for more information. Thank you for your support.

Check Us Out on the



<http://community.tempe.gov/libraryfriends> for further information about the Friends of the Tempe Public Library. Or email us at tempefriends@yahoo.com for more information!

Don't Forget!

Friends Book Sale

Saturday
October 23
9:00-10:00 am
Members Only
10:00-2:00 pm
General Public
Welcome!